

fund in the U.S. Treasury or through an international organization or international financial institution; authorizes the Fund to support specific activities, including assistance to enhance modern educational programs; assistance for training and exchange programs for teachers, administrators, and students; assistance targeting primary and secondary students; assistance for development of youth professionals; and other types of assistance such as the translation of foreign books, newspapers, reference guides, and other reading materials into local languages and the construction and equipping of modern community and university libraries; and authorizes such sums as may be necessary for Fiscal Years 2008, 2009 and 2010 to carry out these activities. This subsection also authorizes the President to carry out programs consistent with these objectives under existing authorities, including the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act. This subsection requires the President to prepare a report to Congress on the United States efforts to assist in the improvement of education opportunities for Muslim children and youths as well as the progress in establishing the International Muslim Youth Opportunity Fund.

#### *Section 2013. Annual Report to Congress*

Section 1413(a) of the House bill directs the Secretary of State to prepare an annual report.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It directs the Secretary of State to prepare an annual report, not later than June 1 of each year until December 31, 2009, on the efforts of predominantly Muslim countries to increase the availability of modern basic education and to close educational institutions that promote religious extremism and terrorism. It also provides the requirements for the annual report.

#### *Section 2014. Extension of Program to Provide Grants to American Sponsored Schools in Predominantly Muslim Countries*

Section 1414(a) of the House bill extends a program to provide grants to American sponsored schools in predominantly Muslim Countries.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It provides findings regarding the pilot program established by section 7113 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458). It also states that this program for outstanding students from lower-income and middle-income families in predominantly Muslim countries is being implemented. It also provides for amendments to that section to extend the program for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008, authorizes such sums as may be necessary for such years, and requires a report in April 2008 about the progress of the program.

#### *Section 2021. Middle East Foundation*

Section 1421(a) of the House bill deals with the Middle East Foundation.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It states the purpose of this section which is to support in the countries of the broader Middle East region, the expansion of civil society, opportunities for political participation of all citizens, protections for internationally recognized human rights; educational reforms; independent media, policies that promote economic opportunities for citizens; the rule of law; and democratic processes of government. It authorizes the Secretary of State to designate an appropriate private, non-profit United States organization as the Middle

East Foundation and to provide funding to the Middle East Foundation through the Middle East Partnership Initiative. It also requires the Middle East Foundation to award grants to persons located in the broader Middle East region or working with local partners based in the region to carry out projects that support the purposes specified in subsection (a); and permits the Foundation to make a grant to a Middle Eastern institution of higher education to create a center for public policy. It also establishes the private nature of the Middle East Foundation. It prevents the funds provided to the Foundation from benefitting any officer or employee of the Foundation, except as salary or reasonable compensation for services. It also provides that the Foundation may hold and retain funds provided in this section in interest-bearing accounts. The Conference substitute requires annual independent private audits, permits audits by the Government Accountability Office, and requires audits of the use of funds under this section by the grant recipient. This subsection also directs the Foundation to prepare an annual report on the Foundation's activities and operations, the grants awarded with funds provided under this section, and the financial condition of the Foundation. It defines the geographic scope of this section. It also repeals section 534(k) of Public Law 109-102.

#### *Section 2031. Advancing United States Interests Through Public Diplomacy*

Section 1431(a) of the House bill deals with advancing U.S. interests through public diplomacy.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It contains a finding that the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States stated that the U.S. government initiated some promising initiatives in television and radio broadcasting to the Arab world, Iran, and Afghanistan and that these efforts are beginning to reach larger audiences. It includes a sense of Congress that the United States needs to improve its communication of ideas and information to people in countries with significant Muslim populations, that public diplomacy should reaffirm the United States commitment to democratic principles, and that a significant expansion of United States international broadcasting would provide a cost-effective means of improving communications with significant Muslim populations. It amends the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to include a provision establishing special authority for surge capacity for U.S. international broadcasting activities to support United States foreign policy objectives during a crisis abroad. The provision also authorizes such sums to carry out the surge capacity authority and directs the Broadcasting Board of Governors to provide information on the use of this authority, as part of an existing annual report to the President and Congress.

#### *Section 2032. Oversight of International Broadcasting*

There is no comparable House provision.

Section 1913 of the Senate bill requires the Board of Broadcasting Governors to transcribe into English all broadcasts by Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Radio Farad, Radio Saw, Alhurra, and the Office of Cuba Broadcasting.

The Conference substitute is a narrower version of the Senate provision. It requires the Broadcasting Board of Governors to initiate a pilot project to transcribe into the English language news and information programming broadcast by Radio Farad, Radio Saw, the Persia Service of the Voice of

America, and Alhurra. It also provides that this transcription shall consist of random sampling and that the transcripts shall be made available to Congress and the public. In addition, it contains a reporting requirement and authorizes \$2 million in appropriations for this pilot project.

#### *Section 2033. Expansion of United States Scholarship, Exchange, and Library Programs in Predominantly Muslim Countries*

Section 1433(a) of the House bill directs the Secretary of State to prepare a report every 180 days until December 31, 2009, on the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It directs the Secretary of State to prepare a report every 180 days until December 31, 2009, on the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States for expanding U.S. scholarship, exchange, and library programs in predominantly Muslim countries, including a certification by the Secretary of State that such recommendations have been implemented or if a certification cannot be made, what steps have been taken to implement such recommendations. It provides for the termination of the duty to report when the certification pursuant to subsection (a) has been submitted.

#### *Section 2034. U.S. Policy Toward Detainees*

Section 1434 of the House bill deals with detainees.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It provides findings that the 9/11 Commission recommended that the United States develop a common coalition approach toward detention and humane treatment of captured terrorists, that a number of U.S. allies are conducting investigations related to treatment of detainees and the Secretary of State has launched an initiative to address the differences between the United States and its allies. It expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should continue to build on the efforts to engage U.S. allies in compliance with Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and other applicable legal principles, toward the detention and humane treatment of individuals detained during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, or in connection with United States counterterrorism operations. It also requires that the Secretary keep the appropriate Congressional Committees fully informed of the developments of these discussions and requires a report on the progress made 180 days after enactment of this Act.

#### *Section 2041. Afghanistan*

Section 1441 of the House bill relates to Afghanistan.

There is no comparable Senate provision.

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision, as modified. It describes Congressional findings, including that a democratic, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is vital to the national security of the United States and to combating international terrorism; that following the ouster of the Taliban regime in 2001, the Government of Afghanistan has achieved some notable successes; that there continue to be factors that pose a serious and immediate threat to the stability of Afghanistan; and that the United States and the international community must significantly increase political, economic, and military support to Afghanistan to ensure its long-term stability and prosperity, and to deny violent extremist groups such as al Qaeda sanctuary in Afghanistan. It declares that it is the United